

Darwin Plus Main: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”
(<https://darwinplus.org.uk/resources/information-notes>)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Plus Project Information

| | |
|--|---|
| Project reference | DPLUS125 |
| Project title | Protecting Anguilla’s biodiversity by building capacity in invasive plant management |
| Territory(ies) | Anguilla |
| Lead Partner | Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Government of Anguilla |
| Project partner(s) | GB Non-native Species Secretariat (GBNNSS); University of Durham, UK |
| Darwin Plus grant value | £284,755 |
| Start/end dates of project | 1 Oct 2021 – 30 Mar 2025 |
| Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2023-Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2) | 1 Apr 2023 – 31 Mar 2024 Annual Report 3 |
| Project Leader name | Rhon [REDACTED] |
| Project website/blog/social media | Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Dplus125 |
| Report author(s) and date | Rhon [REDACTED], Nyasha [REDACTED], Alan [REDACTED] Tuesday 30 th April 2024 |

1. Project summary

The project aims to build capacity in Anguilla to reduce the impact and the risk of introduction and spread of invasive plant species. Invasive plants have widespread impacts throughout Anguilla, particularly on agricultural and natural areas, and newly introduced species continue to arrive and spread. Through a programme of “learning by doing”, skill sharing and community involvement, several priority invasive plant species will be tackled, with the objective of eradicating at least three. A monitoring programme for early detection and rapid response will be established, and biosecurity will be strengthened. Lessons learned will be shared with other regional UKOT territories, and an Invasive Plant Strategy developed to guide future work. Most activities of the project will take place on Anguilla island itself, working with stakeholders (especially the Anguilla National Trust (ANT)) to tackle biosecurity and invasive plants on Anguilla’s offshore and outer islets.

2. Project stakeholders/partners

The project is led by the Environment Division of the Anguillan Government’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in partnership with the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat and the University of Durham’s Department of Biosciences. The management structure for DPUS125

comprises of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAG), Local Steering Committee (LSC), and Project Staff. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) comprises of two representatives of the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat (GB NNSS), two external consultants, and one representative from the University of Durham's Department of Biosciences. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is currently holding quarterly online meetings to offer guidance and technical assistance for the project. The representatives from the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat (GB NNSS), namely Mr. James Millett and former employee Mrs. Jill Key, have been providing their expertise in directing the project, as well as sharing technical knowledge on biosecurity and invasive plant management. During November 2023, Mr James Millett, a representative of GB NNSS, visited Anguilla and participated in a field visit and discussions regarding the management of invasive species. Please click [here](#) to view photographs of the site visit. Furthermore, the representatives of the NNSS provided guidance related to planning and coordinating activities about biosecurity protocol documents and exploring opportunities for funding for the lessons learned workshop schedule for the project's final year. The representative from Durham University Dr. Wayne Dawson, led a refresher training in surveying and mapping techniques via Ms Teams in June 2023. Additionally, he has provided meaningful input during the TAG meetings.

The key local stakeholders that are involved in the development of the project include ANT, DNR's Agriculture Unit, local communities and environmental NGOs (particularly the Anguilla Farmers Association, ALHCS Environmental Club, and Anguilla Enhancement Project). These stakeholders are also represented on the LSC. The LSC was established on the 29th of August, 2023, and all of the members are fully aware of their role in the project and are have been actively engaged in monthly face to face meetings to support the planning and implementation of project activities.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

1. Baseline knowledge on priority invasive plant species improved through surveys and mapping, and Territory database created.

Activities

1.1 Recruit the part-time weed specialist.

- The weed specialist was recruited in April 2022, and is actively involved in the planning and coordination of project activities related to the management of the invasive species.

1.2 Recruit the Project team (project manager, field coordinator, field assistant).

- The Project team is now fully staffed. The Project Manager signed onto the project in January 2023, and the Field Coordinator joined in April 2023. The Field Assistant has already been employed on the project since April 2022.

1.3 Establish the local project steering group and external project technical advisory group.

- The Technical Advisory Group has been functioning from the inception of the project. The Local Steering Committee was established in August 2023. The committee has been actively engaged in monthly meetings to support project implementation.

1.4. Run a training programme for local team on survey and mapping techniques.

- In May 2023, Mr. Wayne Dawson, a TAG member and representative of Durham University, facilitated an online refresher training workshop for the local team.

*1.5 Carry out a survey on the distribution, reproductive state, density and invaded area of the priority target species (jasmynes *Jasminum spp.*, false puncture vine *Tribulus cistoides*, rubber*

vines *Cryptostegia* spp., tropical bull nettle *Cnidocolus urens* and Yerba Porosa *Porophyllum ruderale*).

- Routine surveys of the priority target species have been carried out over the last year and will continue throughout the project.

1.6 Create distribution maps of the target species.

- In April 2022, distribution maps were created, and are updated periodically. The updated maps can be found in the Species Distribution Report, click [here](#) to view.

1.7 Carry out trials on seed bank size and longevity of species selected for eradication, taking samples from representative sites.

- Instead of a formal ex-situ seed bank trial experiment, we opted to do in-situ monitoring as the most efficient use of team time. At each visit, we simply record the number of newly emerged seedlings at each site, as well as any flowering activity as this precedes seed production. Eventually the number of seedlings emerging will decline as the seed bank is exhausted. This is detailed in the Tropical Bull Nettle Management Plan (TBN management Plan) click [here](#) to view.

1.7a Evaluate survey and trial results and use them to re-assess eradication feasibility.

- Information on survey and trial results can be found [here](#) in version 2 of the TBN Management Plan.

1.8 Develop monitoring and management protocols for target species. Revise management plan for each target species.

- Work on the monitoring protocols is ongoing and the management plan is revised periodically.

1.9 Establish an introduced and invasive plant database and a management database for the management target species.

- The Project Staff has been actively collaborating with ANT to produce the introduced and invasive plant database. Click [here](#) to view. This database has been drafted and is a working document that is currently being updated daily and will continue towards the end of the project.
- The Management Database for the target species “Tropical Bull Nettle” has been completed and updated regularly. Click [here](#) to view.

1.10 Train the local team in the use of the monitoring and management protocols and the management database.

- From June to December 2023, the local team at DNR received online training in the use of monitoring and management protocols and the management database.

2. Local capacity built through “learning by doing”, with the delivery of large-scale management interventions to eradicate invasive plant species and prevent their spread.

Activities

2.1 Train the local team on plant identification, herbicide use, safe disposal of plant material through a series of workshops, and the principles of invasive plant management, specifically of eradication feasibility assessment and planning.

- In April 2022, a training workshop was held to cover plant identification, herbicide use, safe disposal of plant material, principles of invasive plant management, eradication feasibility assessment and planning. More training sessions will be held in the future.

2.2 Carry out field evaluation of methods of control known to work elsewhere, e.g. cutting, seedling removal, spot herbicide treatment.

- Throughout the third and fourth quarters of 2023, various methods of field evaluation and control were carried out at three sites. These sites are the North Side, Welches, and Agriculture Grounds located in the Valley. Preparations for the eradication have commenced with GPS mapping, delimiting sites using flagging tape and cutting trails. Please click [here](#) to view photographs of preparatory work for field eradication. In regards to treatment database: We maintain an internal spreadsheet to track treatment activities including dates, sites, herbicide concentrations, and control efficiency. Details and a summary of the spreadsheet are included in the management plan document. Click [here](#) to view.

2.3 Set up trials to evaluate methods of control for less-well known target species (Cnidocolus).

- This activity has been completed. The first two Tropical Bull Nettle treatment cycles were the trials referred to in activity 1.7 of section 3.1.

2.4 Carry out a large scale eradication programme using tested methods on at least 1 priority species.

- Eradication of the Tropical Bull nettle started in November 2023. The local team and personnel from the Agriculture unit were involved in the eradication activities. Please click [here](#) to view photographs of the eradication of the Tropical Bull Nettle.

2.5 Set up eradication monitoring zones to cover each eradication site plus suitable buffer area.

- Eradication monitoring zones have been established.

2.6 Develop an invasive plant control manual.

- The control manual is due for next year.

2.7 Establish a monitoring programme territory-wide to detect new incursions.

- A monitoring programme is being developed. Routine checks are being carried out continuously to detect new incursions.

2.8 Develop biosecurity protocols for inter-island controls in consultation with appropriate local stakeholders (Anguilla National Trust).

- Preliminary discussions with the ANT have already begun. In November 2023, the Project Team met with representatives from ANT to discuss collaboration to develop the biosecurity protocols. Since then, there have been email correspondences to discuss the issue. A Scope of Work was developed, and a meeting is scheduled for April 2024 to negotiate the terms and conditions of the agreement between both entities.

3.Key stakeholders (Community members, hoteliers, Government and land managers) are actively engaged in early detection of invasive plants.

Activities

3.1 Develop and implement a communication and public awareness plan.

- A Communications and Public Awareness Plan was developed and implementation has commenced. The Communication and Public Awareness Plan is a document pdf file that can be accessed [here](#). The education component of the Communication and Public Awareness Plan incorporates educational institutions in invasive plant species management. In September 2023, slide show presentations were conducted at four (4) primary schools. To view the slideshow presentation, click [here](#). A number of promotional materials were distributed to the general public and key target groups at the various activities which were held to increase awareness of the invasive plants. Please click [here](#) to view some of the informational materials that have been published. A citizen science program commenced in November 2023 with participation by the students of the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School. The

student participated in a site visit which took place at the Agriculture Grounds in the Valley. Two news articles were published in the Anguillan News Newspaper. The first, titled "Engaging Anguillans in Invasive Plant Management," was published in August 2023. The second, titled "Eradication of Tropical Bull Nettle Plant From Anguilla," was published in December 2023. Please click [here](#) to view the first article and [here](#) to view the second article. Additionally, in February 2024, t DPLUS125 was featured in the 24th edition of the magazine "What we do in Anguilla". Please click [here](#) to view the article on page 52 of the magazine on their website.

3.2 Plan and deliver invasive plant awareness week

- The Invasive Plant Awareness Week was completed in June 2023 (26th-30th). A programme was developed to outline the scheduled activities for the Invasive Plant Awareness Week. The programme of activities can be accessed [here](#). An exhibition took place at the People's Market Place. Informational and promotional materials were distributed to the general public along with giveaways in live radio interviews and Facebook trivia. Please click [here](#) to view photographs of the exhibition. This event was broadcasted live for one hour via Lloyd Live Facebook. Please click [here](#) to view the live broadcast.

3.3 Design and produce posters and signage to promote public awareness and involvement in the eradication programme, and detection of new species.

- A poster illustrating the 5 top priority species was distributed to all the schools, the Customs Department, Police Stations, and to other key stakeholders. To view the poster click [here](#).

3.4 Develop an agreed code of practice for hoteliers, through consultation with relevant stakeholders.

- The code of practice is schedule for completion later in the project.

4. Lessons learned are consolidated into a long-term invasive plant management strategy, which is shared with other UKOTs in the region

Activities

4.1 Develop a draft Invasive Plant Strategy for long term management of existing invasive non-native species.

- Planning for the development of the draft Invasive Plant Strategy has commenced at all levels of the DPLUS125 management structure (Project Team, TAG, LSC) and will continue in 2024.

4.2 Provide recommendations to Mainstream invasive plant management actions into DNR annual work plans.)

- The recommendations are due later in the project.

4.3 Plan and deliver a regional workshop to share lessons learned.

- During the last quarter of the project year 2023, the opportunity arose to collaborate with the UK Centre of Hydrology and Ecology (CEH) to hold a joint workshop in Anguilla. Discussions are ongoing to plan and coordinate for the regional workshop with funding to be provided by CEH and also possible from the project partner NNSS.

4.4 Ensure all project products are placed on-line.

All project products are being posted online via DPlus125 Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Dplus125>, the government of Anguilla website and other mediums.

3.3 Progress towards Outputs

1. Baseline knowledge on priority invasive plant species improved through surveys and mapping, and Territory database created.

Baseline condition: Maps were created in April 2022, no distribution report, no monitoring protocols, no management database, no comprehensive list of non-native plants in Anguilla

Change recorded to date: Maps have been updated and are included in the Invasive Plant Distribution Report. The Distribution Report was drafted in August 2023, updated in October and then in March 2024. Please click [here](#) to view the report.

Monitor protocols are being drafted and a final draft is in progress.

The Management database of target plant species (Tropical Bull Nettle) has been established and frequently updated. Please click [here](#) to view database updated.

A database of the introduced and invasive plants has been produced in collaboration with assistance from ANT. Please here click [here](#) to view database.

2. Local capacity built through “learning by doing”, with the delivery of large-scale management interventions to eradicate invasive plant species and prevent their spread.

Baseline condition: no organization in Anguilla is fully equipped to carry out priority invasive plant tasks.

Change recorded to date: A workshop series on managing invasive plants began with the first workshop in April 2022. The second was a three-day workshop held in March 2024 (Tuesday 19th to Thursday 21st March, from 9:00 am to 12 noon). The objective of the workshop was to build local capacity in best practices in invasive plant management. A total of 15 persons attended the workshop, including the key stakeholders ANT, Agriculture Unit, Fisheries Unit. Slideshow presentations for the workshop can be found [here](#). Please click [here](#) to view attendance list, and [here](#) for pictures of the workshop. Also, a press release about the workshop was broadcasted to all local media houses click [here](#) to view. In the second quarter of the year, the local team received online training in monitoring protocols.

3. Key stakeholders (Community members, hoteliers, Government and land managers) are actively engaged in early detection of invasive plants.

Baseline condition: no significant management of invasive plants in Anguilla, no organizations or community groups carrying it out and no initiative in place to change the situation

Change recorded:

DNR is now actively performing management actions for invasive plants in Anguilla. Training involving key stakeholders is being facilitated to build capacity to have all stakeholders engaged in the management of invasive plants.

A Communication and Awareness Plan is currently being implemented to sensitize local organizations and the general public are being sensitized about invasive plants on a continuous basis. Three articles have been drafted for the general public. Please refer to activity 3.2 in section 3.1 to view links for materials related to the Communication and Awareness Plan.

4. Lessons learned are consolidated into a long-term invasive plant management strategy, which is shared with other UKOTs in the region

Baseline Condition: no long-term strategy or plans for managing invasive plants exist in Anguilla

Change recorded: Preliminary discussions for the planning and coordination to develop the Invasive Plant Strategy have begun. This output is scheduled to be completed later in the final year of the project.

3.4 Progress towards the project Outcome

Anguilla has an improved capacity to plan and implement invasive plant species management actions.

Indicator 1. By June 2024, one or more priority invasive plant species under active management for eradication from Anguilla.

Baseline condition: no significant action applied to invasive plant species in Anguilla

Progress to date: DNR is now equipped with the necessary equipment and training to effectively eradicate and monitor the priority targeted invasive plant species. Active management of the Tropical Bull Nettle is ongoing. Distribution maps have been established and are regularly updated. Reports have been compiled. Click [here](#) to view the Management Plan for the eradication of the Tropical Bull Nettle and [here](#) for the Invasive Plant Distribution Report.

Indicator 2. Database of introduced and invasive plants established by June 2023; management database established for priority target species by December 2023

Baseline condition: no central repository of information or definitive list of introduced and invasive plants in Anguilla and no monitoring of priority target species for management

Progress to date: A database of invasive plants and monitoring reports have been drafted and are regularly updated. Click [here](#) to view the database.

Indicator 3. By June 2024, DNR and ANT regularly plan for, monitor and review territory-wide invasive plant management initiatives. Annual work plans for monitoring invasive plants have been established and currently being used.

Baseline condition: no coordinated or joint action by DNR and ANT against invasive plants to date

Progress to date: ANT has been actively engaged in planning for the development of the biosecurity protocols and sharing information for the database of invasive plants.

Indicator 4. Key community stakeholders actively involved in monitoring and managing invasive plants by September 2023.

Baseline condition: no such programme

Progress to date: Local stakeholders are receiving training and are expected to engage in managing invasive plants. The general public is now more aware of invasive plants and has been reporting sightings of invasive plants via telephone and Facebook messages.

3.5 Monitoring of assumptions

The identified assumptions in the project proposal still apply but the level of risk has reduced for some.

Assumption 1: Species selected for eradication are correctly identified as feasible and of high impact.

Comments: The Tropical Bull Nettle has been identified as top priority and selected for eradication programme. Eradication has begun and monitoring will continue.

Assumption 2: Cost effective and acceptable control methods can be found for the target species which are suitable in Anguilla.

Comments: There have been some challenges in regard to the importation of some equipment and herbicides required for the eradication process but that has been overcome. For at least 1 priority species methods of control have been tested and confirmed.

Assumption 3: Expertise developed remains in Anguilla

Comments: The local team and members of key stakeholder organizations have received training and are expected to be well equipped to implement management actions for invasive plant species by the end of the project. Local capacity and understanding of the management of invasive plants has increased. Furthermore, recently there has been a push for achieving programme sustainability beyond the project's end as DNR has new employment opportunities. This will certainly benefit DNR's programme for sustainability in managing invasive species.

Assumption 4: Landowners are cooperative and accept removal of plants from their land.

Comments: Most Landowners have been very supportive of the eradication of the invasive species. The Local team have been able to access private lands for eradication of the target invasive species with permission by landowners. However, it is necessary to continuously educate and sensitize landowners about invasive plants.

Assumption 5: National institutions remain committed to long term invasive species management.

Comments: DNR is working tediously to support programme sustainability of invasive species management. There is already an invasive species management strategy and The Ministry of Sustainability, Innovation, and the Environment in collaboration with DNR will continue to work towards endorsing future prospective projects that will benefit sustainability of invasive species management.

4. Project support to environmental and/or climate outcomes in the UKOTs

This project is designed to build capacity to manage invasive plants. The implementation of project actions regarding eradication of the Tropical Bull Nettle contributes to combating the challenges faced with loss of biodiversity and improving the quality of the natural environment.

The project contributes to helping Anguilla meet global objectives including Aichi Target 9 (invasive alien species and pathways identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated and measures in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment); UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Target 15.8 (by 2020 introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species); Recommendation 20 in the 2019 Environmental Audit Committee on Invasive Species (preventing species arriving); Invasive Non-Native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain, Key Action 9.5 (strengthen support for the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, for example by continuing Defra support for identification of invertebrate plant pests, sharing technical expertise, training, including biosecurity training); UK government's response to the IUCN Honolulu Challenge of 2016 (calling for greater action to tackle invasive species); UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy 2009, Strategic Objective ii (preventing the establishment of invasive alien species, and eradicating or controlling species that have already become established); the UK government's obligations to the OTs under the Global Britain Strategy; Environment Charter (ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management, including the control and eradication of invasive species); Biodiversity Action Plan (facilitate Anguilla's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi targets); Invasive Species Strategy (ensure that Anguilla develop programmes to reduce the threat in alien invasive species and engage stakeholders for the management of such species); Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act: (provide for the

recovery of wildlife species that are extirpated, endangered or threatened as a result of human activity); Native Plant and Animal Habitat Conservation (Biodiversity) Policy; (take the necessary measures to control the intentional or accidental introduction or escape into or from the environment, of alien or modified organisms that are likely to impact adversely on other organisms or on the environment).

5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

| | |
|--|--|
| Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ . | Project Staff (PS) – 50% are women Technical Advisory Group (TAG) - 50% are women Local Steering Committee (LSC) - 75% are women |
| Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² . | The Project Team is led by a Female Project Manager The chairperson of the Local steering Committee is a female. |

| GESI Scale | Description | Put X where you think your project is on the scale |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Not yet sensitive | The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach | |
| Sensitive | The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities. | |
| Empowering | The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups | x |
| Transformative | The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change | |

The project was designed to incorporate a diversity of experts with respect to age, gender, education, cultural background, ethnicity including local knowledge and experience. Women occupy senior roles and provide leadership and good governance within the project. In addition, women of all age groups participate in various aspects of the project from senior level management to participation in project activities which incorporate local community stakeholders. The project has been successful in its approach to ensure social inclusion with constant interaction with local stakeholders in various project activities. These activities include training workshops, field trips, school visits, site visits, public exhibitions, and interaction with farmers

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

including Land owners (both men and women, young and elderly), youths (students and young adults, members of local non-profit organizations).

6. Monitoring and evaluation

The Project Staff is responsible for overseeing the monitoring and evaluation of the project. The logframe is used to monitor the progress of the project. The Project Staff focus on the implementation of activities and ensuring that they are executed on schedule, and that they contribute towards achieving the outputs. Review of the logframe to track the output indicators is carried out at regular intervals. Also, the means of verification listed in the logframe are checked and the information required are compiled and stored google drive as evidence which are used to demonstrate project achievements.

7. Lessons learnt

Management structure

The management structure for DPLUS125 is now complete with the inclusion of the Local Steering Committee (LSC). It has been observed that over the past 2 years, the absence of the LSC has resulted in the Technical Advisory Committee taking on a significant role in managing the project. However, with the LSC now actively involved, the project's management structure has been strengthened. This collaboration also presents an opportunity for the project to be sustained even after its completion. Going forward, it is expected that the LSC will continue to work closely with DNR and other stakeholders to ensure that the management of invasive plants in Anguilla is successful. One of the key takeaways from this experience is the realization of the importance of involving local stakeholders in the project right from the outset.

Delay in project implementation

The project DPLUS125 has faced significant challenges leading to severe delays, causing critical activities to take longer than expected for successful delivery. Unfortunately, this has had a negative impact on the project timeline, which has resulted in adjustments being made in order to increase the likelihood of project success. The Project Team has identified the need to re-evaluate the log frame, project schedule, and budget to ensure that the project is on track for successful completion. This experience has taught us that it is essential to review and assess the progress of the project regularly, comparing its original expectations to the current status to ensure that it is aligned with the project goals.

8. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

The reviewer's main comments on AR2 with response requested were summarised in the table below:

| No. | Comment | Discuss with BCFs Admin | Next half year report | Next Annual Report | No response needed |
|-----|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Urgently, revise the project's timeline, and if necessary logframe Outputs and Outcome to reflect what can realistically be achieved in the time remaining. | X | | | |
| 2 | Please report on Activity implementation – as indicated in the Reporting template (and ensure inclusion at Annex 1). Output and Outcome reporting should focus on Indicators, paying particular attention to their metrics. | | | X | |
| 3 | Provide more information on the inputs of named project partners. | | | X | |
| 4 | Check logframe MoV for documentation to be submitted as evidence | | | X | |
| 5 | Ensure that you are using the latest approved version of the logframe for reporting. [NB changing Activity descriptions does not require a Change Request – most other things may well do!] | | | X | |

Responses:

Comment 1: The project timeline, budget and logframe was revised, submitted to BCF and approved in the Q3.

Comment 2: For this year's report Annex1 has been included and detailed reporting on activities, outputs and outcome.

Comment 3: Please refer to section 2 (Project stakeholders\Partners) for information regarding inputs of the project partners.

Comment 4: Means of verification as stated in the logframe are stored in the project google drive and links for viewing evidence are attached throughout project report.

Comment 5: Yes, the latest approved version that was submitted via change request in October 2023 is being used in this project report.

9. Risk Management

No new risks have been registered to date except for the known delay in project implementation due to the late recruitment of key Project Staff.

10. Sustainability and legacy

There has been an increase interest and capacity resulting from a series training workshops undertaken in the project thus far. This has been demonstrated by the attendance and participation of key staff and other stakeholders in training workshops as well as the use of technology software introduce to them. For example, members of the ALHCS environmental club has been actively utilising the Inaturalist app to identify invasive and non-invasive plants. Furthermore, a large part of the project legacy will rely on the inclusion of field work plans, monitoring protocols incorporated into DNR's and ANT's future annual work plans.

11. Darwin Plus identity

Darwin Plus is represented as the lead funding agency for the project. Darwin Plus has been publicized throughout the project by branding all promotional materials using its logo. These promotional materials are being publicized and distributed as part of awareness raising for the

project. Promotional materials include pens, brochures, posters, water bottles, T-shirts, caps, etc. This evidenced in promotional activities such as the Invasive Plant Awareness Week, published articles in local newspaper and magazine, school presentations and training workshops.

12. Safeguarding

| | |
|--|---|
| Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months? | No |
| Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months | No |
| Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point? | Yes Rhon [REDACTED] |
| Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months? | No |
| What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding? | Past: % [and number] Planned: % [and number] |
| Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? No Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. | |
| Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? No If so please specify. | |
| Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants. | |
| Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? No If yes, please outline how this was resolved. | |

Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

| Project spend (indicative) in this financial year | 2023/24 D+ Grant (£) | 2024/25 Total actual D+ Costs (£) | Variance % | Comments (please explain significant variances) |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|---|
| Staff costs | | | | |
| Consultancy costs | | | | |
| Overhead Costs | | | | |
| Travel and subsistence | | | | |
| Operating Costs | | | | |
| Capital items | | | | |
| Others (Please specify) | | | | |
| TOTAL | 100,451 | 97,853.08 | | |

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

| | Secured to date | Expected by end of project | Sources |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£) | | | NNNS University of Durham DNR |
| Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£) | | | |

13. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

- In order to enhance the outcome level indicators to be more realistic and time-bound for the duration of the project, the Project team decided to revise the logframe, budget, and extend the timeline. A change request was submitted and approved in October 2023. The request was granted for the transfer of funds to the final year’s budget to ensure staff retention for the proposed extension of an additional six (6) months. The new date for project completion is March 2025. In December 2023, another change request was submitted to reallocate budgeted funds between expenditure categories without changing the total amount budgeted.

14. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

| File Type (Image / Video / Graphic) | File Name or File Location | Caption including description, country and credit | Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none) | Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary) |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | Yes / No |

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2023-2024

| Project summary | Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Impact</p> <p>The threat posed by invasive non-native plants to Anguilla's unique biodiversity is reduced by controlling their spread between islands, eradicating high-priority species, and reducing the risk of new incursions</p> | <p>Planning of a permanent territorial programme of invasive plant management is in ongoing and some aspects are currently being implemented.</p> | |
| <p>Outcome</p> <p>Anguilla has an improved capacity to plan and implement invasive plant species management actions.</p> | | |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.1</p> <p>By June 2024, one or more priority invasive plant species under active management for eradication from Anguilla.</p> | <p>Distribution Maps have been completed. Please refer to 1.5 of section 3.1 to view maps. Active management of the identified target species for eradication “ Tropical Bull Nettle “ is currently in progress. Evidence provided in activity 1.6 of section 3.1 of the report.</p> | <p>Update distribution maps</p> <p>Monitoring of the Tropical Bull Nettle will continue</p> |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.2</p> <p>0.2 Database of introduced and invasive plants established by June 2023; management database established for priority target species by December 2023.</p> | <p>The database for management of the Tropical Bull Nettle has been established. Evidence provided in output 1. of section 3.3 in the report.</p> <p>Management report has been completed. Evidence provided in output 1 of section 3.3 in the report.</p> | <p>Update the management database</p> <p>Reports will be submitted periodically</p> |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.3</p> <p>By June 2024, DNR and ANT regularly plan for, monitor and review territory-wide invasive plant management initiatives.</p> | <p>A series of training workshops has commenced for staff and key stakeholders involved in the project. Work plans for field work has been drafted and updated regularly.</p> | <p>More Training workshops are expected to take place next year</p> |
| <p>Outcome indicator 0.4</p> <p>Key community stakeholders actively involved in monitoring and managing invasive plants by September 2023.</p> | <p>Key stakeholders have been actively engaged in training workshops to build capacity to manage invasive plants. Land owners have been responsive in communicating sightings of the invasive plants in their community.</p> | <p>Continue to engage local stakeholders in training monitoring activities</p> |
| <p>Output 1.</p> <p>Baseline knowledge on priority invasive plant species improved through surveys and mapping, and Territory database created.</p> | | |

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| <p>Output indicator 1.1</p> <p>Maps and detailed distribution reports produced for at least 5 invasive plant species identified for management priority by December 2022.</p> | <p>Distribution Maps have been produced and reports completed. Evidence provided in output 1 of section 3.2.</p> | <p>Update distribution maps and reports periodically</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 1.2</p> <p>Training carried out with the local team on surveying and mapping techniques by May 2022.</p> | <p>Training of the local team (DNR) has been completed.</p> | <p>completed</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 1.3</p> <p>Monitoring protocols developed for invasive plant species under management for eradication, by December 2023.</p> | <p>Monitoring protocols have been drafted and work has already begun for the eradication of the Tropical Bull Nettle.</p> | <p>Work is in progress to complete of the monitoring protocols</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 1.4</p> <p>Management database includes records of eradication target plant species by December 2023.</p> | <p>Management database for the priority species selected for eradication “Tropical Bull Nettle” has been established. Evidence provided in output 1 of section 3.2</p> | <p>The management database has been drafted and is currently being updated regularly</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 1.5</p> <p>Introduced and invasive plants database includes verified species list and basic information relevant to management decision-making, by December 2023.</p> | <p>Introduced and invasive plant database has been completed. Evidence provided in output 1 of section 3.2</p> | <p>Update the Introduced and invasive plant database on a regular basis.</p> |
| <p>Output 2. Local capacity built through “learning by doing”, with the delivery of large-scale management interventions to eradicate invasive plant species and prevent their spread.</p> | | |
| <p>Output indicator 2.1</p> <p>At least 30 people participate in invasive plant workshops, covering identification, herbicide use, safe disposal of plant material, over the 3 years.</p> | <p>At least 3 training workshop of the series of planned workshop has been completed.</p> | <p>More workshop are being planned to engage local stakeholders</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 2.2</p> <p>Simple invasive plant control manual developed for local use, based on tested methods for priority species, by June 2024.</p> | <p>The control manual is due for completion in the next financial year.</p> | |

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| Output indicator 2.3 At least 6 people from 3 organisations are trained in best practice for invasive plant management by March 2024 . | This training completed in March 2024. Evidence provided in output 2 of section 3.2 and Annex 4 | |
| Output indicator 2.4 All priority invasive plant species under active management are being routinely monitored by December 2023. | Target species “Tropical Bull Nettle database has been completed. Evidence provided in output 1 of section 3.2 | Updates of the database will be conducted regularly |
| Output indicator 2.5 Biosecurity protocols for inter-island controls developed and implemented to protect the offshore and outer islets by September 2024. | The biosecurity protocol documents are due for completion in the next financial year. However, preliminary discussions with ANT to develop the biosecurity protocols has begun. | Solicit consultant to work on producing the biosecurity protocols |
| Output 3. | | |
| Key stakeholders (Community members, hoteliers, Government and land managers) are actively engaged in early detection of invasive plants. | | |
| Output indicator 3.1 Community actively engaged in invasive plant detection through a citizen science programme by December 2023. | A communication and Awareness Plan (CEPA) has been completed and implemented. The Citizen by Science programme forms part of the activities outlined in the CEPA which commenced in November 2023. | Activities outlined in the communication and Awareness Plan will continue into the final project year. |
| Output indicator 3.2 Article in the local media (e.g. website, radio or newspaper) on invasive plant management produced at least 2 times a year, from 2023. | Three articles have been published. Evidence provided in activity 3.1 of section 3.1. | |
| Output indicator 3.3 At least one invasive plant awareness week run by June 2024. | The invasive plant awareness week was completed. See link for evidence provided in activity 3.2 section 3.1. | |
| Output indicator 3.4 Posters and signage developed for eradication target species and to promote the early detection newly arrived species by December 2023. | The poster has been published and distributed. See link for evidence provided in activity 3.3 section 3. | |
| Output indicator 3.5 Code of practice for hoteliers and plant importers to reduce the risk of introducing new invasive species developed by May 2024. | Code of practice due for completion final project year | |

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| <p>Output 4. Lessons learned are consolidated into a long-term invasive plant management strategy, which is shared with other UKOTs in the region</p> | | |
| <p>Output indicator 4.1. Invasive plant strategy drafted for long-term management, October 2024.</p> | <p>Preliminary discussions has started amongst the management groups.</p> | <p>DNR will work closely with the LSC to seek collaboration form interdepartmental offices for their participation. Possibility exist of hiring a consultant to undertake this activity</p> |
| <p>Output indicator 4.2. Regional workshop to share lessons learned, held by November 2024.</p> | <p>Preliminary discussions has begun with key project partner NNSS and possible collaboration with CEH.</p> | <p>Continued planning and coordination for the event.</p> |

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Impact: The threat posed by invasive non-native plants to Anguilla's unique biodiversity is reduced by controlling their spread between islands, eradicating high-priority species, and reducing the risk of new incursions.</p> | | | |
| <p>Outcome: Anguilla has an improved capacity to plan and implement invasive plant species management actions.</p> | <p>0.1 By June 2024, one or more priority invasive plant species under active management for eradication from Anguilla.</p> <p>0.2 Database of introduced and invasive plants established by June 2023; management database established for priority target species by December 2023.</p> <p>0.3 By June 2024, DNR and ANT regularly plan for, monitor and review territory-wide invasive plant management initiatives.</p> <p>0.4 Key community stakeholders actively involved in monitoring and managing invasive plants by September 2023.</p> | <p>0.1 Species distribution maps and monitoring reports</p> <p>0.2 Introduced and invasive plant database; management reports</p> <p>0.3 Institutional annual work plans; institutional budgets; staff work plans.</p> <p>0.4 Records of reports from the community.</p> | <p>Field activities can be rescheduled if extreme weather events occur during the project.</p> <p>Emerging infectious diseases e.g. Covid-19 do not impede the work.</p> <p>Species selected for eradication are correctly identified as feasible and of high impact.</p> <p>National stakeholders remain willing to cooperate on invasive species initiatives.</p> |
| <p>Output 1 Baseline knowledge on priority invasive plant species improved through surveys and mapping, and Territory database created.</p> | <p>1.1 Maps and detailed distribution reports produced for at least 5 invasive plant species identified for management priority by December 2022.</p> <p>1.2 Training carried out with the local team on surveying and mapping techniques by May 2022.</p> <p>1.3 Monitoring protocols developed for invasive plant species under</p> | <p>1.1 Species distribution maps and monitoring reports</p> <p>1.2 Training programme; presentations; attendance records.</p> <p>1.3. Monitoring protocols</p> <p>1.4, Priority species management database</p> | <p>Improved knowledge leads to improved ability to manage invasive plants.</p> <p>Access to sites required for survey and permission and cooperation from landowners are assumed.</p> |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|---|---|--|
| | <p>management for eradication, by December 2023.</p> <p>1.4 Management database includes records of eradication target plant species by December 2023.</p> <p>1.5 Introduced and invasive plants database includes verified species list and basic information relevant to management decision-making, by December 2023.</p> | <p>1.5 Introduced and invasive plant databases</p> | <p>Survey efforts are not impeded by severe weather events.</p> |
| <p>Output 2</p> <p>Local capacity built through “learning by doing”, with the delivery of large-scale management interventions to eradicate invasive plant species and prevent their spread.</p> | <p>2.1 At least 30 people participate in invasive plant workshops, covering identification, herbicide use, safe disposal of plant material, over the 3 years.</p> <p>2.2 Simple invasive plant control manual developed for local use, based on tested methods for priority species, by June 2024.</p> <p>2.3 At least 6 people from 3 organisations are trained in best practice for invasive plant management by March 2024 .</p> <p>2.4 All priority invasive plant species under active management are being routinely monitored by December 2023.</p> <p>2.5 Biosecurity protocols for inter-island controls developed and implemented to protect the offshore and outer islets by September 2024.</p> | <p>2.1 Training course attendance records</p> <p>2.2 Invasive plant control manual</p> <p>2.3 Training reports and staff appraisals detailing training provided</p> <p>2.4 Target species database updates.</p> <p>2.5 Biosecurity protocol documents</p> | <p>Field activities can be rescheduled if extreme weather events occur during the project.</p> <p>Cost-effective and acceptable control methods can be found for the target species which are suitable for Anguilla.</p> <p>Expertise developed remains in Anguilla.</p> <p>Landowners are cooperative and accept removal of plants from their land.</p> <p>Anguilla National Trust (island manager) supports biosecurity development, island owners and tour operators agree to implement protocols.</p> <p>Biosecurity framework allows implementation of protocols.</p> |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|---|--|--|
| | | | Key stakeholders have capacity to engage with the project and support delivery. |
| <p>Output 3</p> <p>Key stakeholders (Community members, hoteliers, Government and land managers) are actively engaged in early detection of invasive plants.</p> | <p>3.1 Community actively engaged in invasive plant detection through a citizen science programme by December 2023.</p> <p>3.2 Article in the local media (e.g. website, radio or newspaper) on invasive plant management produced at least 2 times a year, from 2023.</p> <p>3.3 At least one invasive plant awareness week run by June 2024.</p> <p>3.4 Posters and signage developed for eradication target species and to promote the early detection newly arrived species by December 2023.</p> <p>3.5 Code of practice for hoteliers and plant importers to reduce the risk of introducing new invasive species developed by May 2024.</p> | <p>3.1 3.1 Communication and public awareness plan.</p> <p>3.2 Compendium of articles.</p> <p>3.3 Programme of events; feedback from participants; publicity.</p> <p>3.4 Posters.</p> <p>3.5 Code of practice.</p> | Key stakeholders remain willing to engage with the project. |
| <p>Output 4</p> <p>Lessons learned are consolidated into a long-term invasive plant management strategy, which is shared with other UKOTs in the region</p> | <p>4.1 Invasive plant strategy drafted for long-term management, October 2024.</p> <p>4.2 Regional workshop to share lessons learned, held by November 2024.</p> | <p>4.1 Invasive plant strategy document</p> <p>4.2 Workshop proceedings; attendance records; presentations.</p> | <p>Other UKOTs are interested in applying the lessons learned.</p> <p>National institutions remain committed to long term invasive species management.</p> |

| Project summary | SMART Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <p>Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p>1.1 Recruit the part-time weed specialist.</p> <p>1.2 Recruit the Project team (project manager, field coordinator, field assistant).</p> <p>1.3 Establish the local project steering group and external project technical advisory group.</p> <p>1.4. Run a training programme for local team on survey and mapping techniques</p> <p>1.5 Carry out a survey on the distribution, reproductive state, density and invaded area of the priority target species (jasmynes <i>Jasminum</i> spp., false puncture vine <i>Tribulus cistoides</i>, rubber vines <i>Cryptostegia</i> spp., tropical bull nettle <i>Cnidocolus urens</i> and Yerba Porosa <i>Porophyllum ruderales</i>).</p> <p>1.6 Create distribution maps of the target species.</p> <p>1.7 Carry out trials on seed bank size and longevity of species selected for eradication, taking samples from representative sites.</p> <p>1.7a Evaluate survey and trial results and use them to re-assess eradication feasibility.</p> <p>1.8 Develop monitoring and management protocols for target species. Revise management plan for each target species.</p> <p>1.9 Establish an introduced and invasive plant database and a management database for the management target species.</p> <p>1.10 Train the local team in the use of the monitoring and management protocols and the management database.</p> <p>2.1 Train the local team on plant identification, herbicide use, safe disposal of plant material through a series of workshops, and the principles of invasive plant management, specifically of eradication feasibility assessment and planning.</p> <p>2.2 Carry out field evaluation of methods of control known to work elsewhere, e.g. cutting, seedling removal, spot herbicide treatment.</p> <p>2.3 Set up trials to evaluate methods of control for less-well known target species (<i>Cnidocolus</i>).</p> <p>2.4 Carry out a large scale eradication programme using tested methods on at least 1 priority species.</p> <p>2.5 Set up eradication monitoring zones to cover each eradication site plus suitable buffer area.</p> <p>2.6 Develop an invasive plant control manual.</p> <p>2.7 Establish a monitoring programme territory-wide to detect new incursions.</p> <p>2.8 Develop biosecurity protocols for inter-island controls in consultation with appropriate local stakeholders (Anguilla National Trust).</p> <p>3.1 Develop and implement a communication and public awareness plan.</p> <p>3.2 Plan and deliver invasive plant awareness week.</p> <p>3.3 Design and produce posters and signage to promote public awareness and involvement in the eradication programme, and detection of new species.</p> <p>3.4 Develop an agreed code of practice for hoteliers, through consultation with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>4.1 Develop a draft Invasive Plant Strategy for long term management of existing invasive non-native species.</p> <p>4. Provide recommendations to Mainstream invasive plant management actions into DNR annual work plans.)</p> <p>4.3 Plan and deliver a regional workshop to share lessons learned.</p> <p>4.4 Ensure all project products are placed on-line.</p> | | | |

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

| DPLUS Indicator number | Name of indicator using original wording | Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DPLUS Standard Indicators | Units | Disaggregation | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Total to date | Total planned during the project |
|------------------------|---|--|---------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| DPLUS-A01 | 2.1 At least 30 people participate in invasive plant management workshops, covering plant identification, herbicide use, safe disposal of plant material, over the 3 years. | Number of stakeholders who participated in the training. | People | Gender 45%M 55%F | | 15 | | 15 | 30 |
| DPLUS A03 | 2.3 At least 6 people from 3 organisations are trained in best practice for invasive plant management | Number of local/national organisations with improved capability and capacity as a result of project. | Organisations | | | 3 | 3 | | 6 |
| DPLUS B02 | 0.1 By June 2024, one or more priority invasive plant species under active management for eradication from Anguilla. | Number of new/improved species management plans available and endorsed | Number | | | | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| DPLUS - C01 | 2.2 Simple invasive plant control manual developed for local use, based on tested methods for priority species, by December 2023. | Number of best practice guides and knowledge products published and endorsed | Number | | | | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| DPLUS -C02 | 1.5 Introduced and invasive plants database includes verified species list and basic information relevant to management decision-making. | Number of new conservation or species stock assessments published | Number | | | | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Table 2 Publications

| Title | Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs) | Detail (authors, year) | Gender of Lead Author | Nationality of Lead Author | Publishers (name, city) | Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online) |
|--------------|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
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Checklist for submission

| | Check |
|---|-------|
| Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission? | yes |
| Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line. | yes |
| Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line. | |
| Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report. | yes |
| If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 15)? | yes |
| Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors | yes |
| Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully? | Yes |
| Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report. | |